

While OGE's budget has increased rather significantly since we last reauthorized the agency in 1988, OGE still has a lean budget with which to operate when you consider the critically important responsibilities of the agency. That said, in light of looming budget deficits, OGE, like all agencies will be called upon to meet its responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Mr. President, OGE's mission is critically important in ensuring strict ethical standards in Government. I hope my colleagues will move expeditiously to pass this important measure reauthorizing OGE. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Senator LEVIN for his efforts on this legislation and his many years of service on Government ethics issues.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased we are considering today, H.R. 3235, the Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 1996. This is the same as S.699, the bill sponsored by Senator COHEN and myself and reported by the Governmental Affairs Committee. H.R. 3235 would authorize the appropriation of funds necessary for the Office of Government Ethics to carry out its mission from fiscal years 1997 through 1999.

The Office was first established under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Since then, it has been the centerpiece for implementing laws and policies governing the executive branch to ensure that Federal agency officers and employees operate free from conflicts of interest.

Unfortunately, this bill would reauthorize the office for only 3 years. I would have preferred 7 years, but we were told by the House that they wouldn't accept a longer reauthorization. Given the fact that the office has been without a reauthorization since September 30, 1994, and that its work is of fundamental importance to the operations of the executive branch, I think the position of the House is unfortunate. Such a short reauthorization will require more of the valuable time of the OGE staff directed to the legislative process and away from the important work of managing their ethics responsibilities. Because it is so short, it is also likely to result in an authorization gap similar to the one we are experiencing now.

The bill contains a provision which would solve an unintended problem with respect to congressional and Presidential staff leaving office to work on reelection campaigns. In 1989, when we strengthened the post employment restrictions, we prohibited all senior executive branch and congressional staff from contacting their former offices on behalf of someone else for 1 year from the time they left office. What we over-

looked at the time was the situation where congressional staff and top executive department officials may leave their Government positions to work on the reelection campaigns of the persons for whom they worked while in the Government. For example, the administrative assistant of one of our colleagues may take a leave of absence and work on the reelection campaign for that same Member. If that happens, that administrative assistant should not be barred from contacting the Member or his staff on behalf of the campaign, since the interests of the campaign and the Member are really the same. Such a bar, which was never intended, would basically make such employment impossible.

The bill would correct this error and permit contacts by a former staff person working for a Member's campaign with the Member and the office of the Member if such contacts are on behalf of the campaign. Such contacts would not be permitted if they were made on behalf of someone or some entity other than the campaign. Should the former staff person work, for example, part time for the campaign and part time as a lobbyist, this bill would not permit that former staff person to contact his or her former office during the 1 year cooling off period on behalf of a client for whom he is serving as a lobbyist. The exception this bill makes is only for contacts by former staff on behalf of the campaign organizations of the Member or President-Vice President for whom the staff person previously worked. This limitation avoids giving an otherwise reasonable exception an unintended consequence.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator COHEN, Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Oversight Subcommittee, for his support on this issue; and my colleagues for their support in getting this bill to the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be placed in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3235) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 on Thursday, July 25; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date; the morning hour be deemed to have expired; the time for

the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate immediately resume the foreign operations appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning beginning at 9:30 the Senate will resume the foreign operations appropriations bill with a time agreement on the McCain amendment of no more than 30 minutes; therefore, a vote will occur on or in relation to the McCain amendment no later than 10 a.m. Several additional amendments are expected to be offered. Therefore, votes are expected to occur throughout the session of the Senate on Thursday.

Following the disposition of the foreign operations bill, the Senate is then expected to turn to the HUD/VA appropriations bill. Therefore, votes are expected during the session of the Senate on Friday of this week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate now stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:47 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 25, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 24, 1996:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

SUSAN FORD WILTSHIRE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 25, 2002, VICE HENRY H. HIGUERA, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

JON DEVEAUX, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 12, 1998. (REAPPOINTMENT)

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

MICHAEL A. NARANJO, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 19, 2002, VICE BEATRICE RIVAS SANCHEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 24, 1996:

THE JUDICIARY

NANETTE K. LAUGHREY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF MISSOURI.

DEAN D. PREGERSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.